

SENATE BILL 3575

By Ketron

AN ACT to name a bridge on State Route 245 in Maury County in honor of the historic Southport community.

WHEREAS, Bridge No. 60-245-210 is located on State Route 245 in the historic Southport community in the south central part of Maury County, near the Giles County line; and

WHEREAS, many long-time Maury County families are from the historic Southport community, including the Andrews, Bailey, Brunson, Dugger, Foster, Galloway, Gibson, Garrett, Gidcomb, Gregory, Hensley, Hickman, Howell, Holt, Hyatt, Logue, Lovell, Matthews, McConnell, McKnight, Murphy, Pillow, Pullen, Ralston, Rhea, Richardson, Scott, Seagraves, Sneed, Stewart, Taylor, Thurman, Walker, Watkins and Weatherford families; and

WHEREAS, the McConnell Tannery was operated by the first settler, and the Southport Post Office was opened in 1843, with Thomas Hyatt being the Postmaster. The Southport Post Office closed in 1903, and;

WHEREAS, the Saltpeter/Miller Cave Nitrate Works provided nitrates for manufacturing gunpowder; and

WHEREAS, the Southport store, which opened in the 1880s, was owned over the years by the Gregory, Lovell, Thurman, and Bailey families; and

WHEREAS, Mr. L. R. Gidcomb was a blacksmith in the area in 1902, and he was followed in that profession by Bob Howell; and

WHEREAS, the Southport Phosphate Company Mines were owned by Federal Chemical and Rhum Phosphate and were managed by Rhum Phosphate; and

WHEREAS, Scott's Mill, a nearby grist mill operation, was operated by Jack Dugger; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Copeland was the community physician for many years; and

WHEREAS, there were two schools in the area, Sullivan Common School and Ettaton Common School; and

WHEREAS, the Maury County Legislative Body has petitioned this body to name the aforementioned bridge to honor the historic Southport Community, and an anonymous individual has agreed to pay the costs associated with the signs that would identify such bridge; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, Bridge No. 60-245-210, which is located on State Route 245 (Campbellsville Pike) at its intersection with Scott's Mill Road in Maury County, is hereby designated the "Southport Community Bridge" as a lasting tribute to one of Tennessee's most historic communities.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Southport Community Bridge".

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs

within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.